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| 1. Date of submission |  |
| 1. Member State: | Finland |
| 1. Name of the disease: | IHN |
| 1. Contact details: | The government of Åland  PB 1060  AX-22111 MARIEHAMN  ÅLAND, Finland |
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| * 1. Responsibility within the competent authority: | The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for declaring compartments free of aquatic animal diseases in accordance with Article 83 of Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/689. The Finnish Food Authority is responsible for publishing provisional declarations of compartments free from disease on its website. The Government of Åland is responsible for implementing the rules on eradication and control of animal diseases in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the Finnish Act on Animal Diseases (76/2021). The Åland Environmental and Health Authority (ÅMHM) is the competent authority for carrying out inspections and controls on the holdings. |
| * 1. Name: | Government of Åland, Department of Social Affairs, Health and Environment. |
| 1. Identification of the grounds for recognition of disease-free status: |  |
| * 1. absence of listed species: |  |
| * 1. disease agent’s incapacity to survive |  |
| * 1. historical and surveillance data |  |
| * 1. completion of an eradication programme | x |
| 1. Territorial scope of the eradication programme: |  |
| * 1. zone |  |
| * 1. compartment | x |
| 1. In the case of dependent compartments as referred to in point (b) of Article 73(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/689: |  |
| * the assessment referred to in point (a) of Article 73(3) of the same Regulation; and | (i) Geographical location of each establishment in the compartment and the nature of water supply  Coastal dependent compartment contained within a circle of radius 19,3331 kilometres, centred on WGS84 coordinates Lat 59,975253701°, Lon 20,454027317° and comprised by parts of the municipalities Föglö, Lumparland, Lemland, Vårdö, Sottunga and Kökar in Åland Islands, Finland. There are no physical barriers between this compartment and other sea areas. All the surrounding sea areas are officially IHN free (Finland and Sweden), except for the coastal compartment comprised by the parts of Eckerö and Hammarland municipalities that are contained within a circle of radius 10 km, centred on WGS84 coordinates 10 km, centred on WGS84 coordinates Lat 60,207175390°, Lon 19,507907780 that was established in 2022. The two compartments are located 28 km from each other measured in a straight line and 33 km measuring the sea route.  There are 10 (n 10) fish farming establishments, and two slaughterhouses in the compartment. Six of the establishments had IHN susceptible species (rainbow trout) in 2021 and five of them were infected in 2021 (four outbreaks, as the first outbreak consisted of two separate establishments). The sixth establishment keeping rainbow trout as well as the establishments keeping only non-susceptible species (sea trout), or which were empty remain non-infected.  1. Å 101 N: 60.01861 E: 20.33805  2. Å 101 N: 60.018883 E: 20.3123  3. Å 106 N: 60.04315 E: 20.349583  4. Å 106 N: 60.002433 E: 20.304333  5. Å 106 N: 59.952233 E: 20.295083  6. Å 106 N: 60.05 E: 20.456667  7. Å 106 N: 60.007267 E: 20.647267  8. Å 106 N: 59.949267 E: 20.612067  9. N: 59.994108 E: 20.306597  10. N: 60.027809 E: 20.213934  11. N: 60.034114 E: 20.392564  12. N: 60.01861 E: 20.33805  ii) health status of the other aquaculture establishments in the water system  The surrounding sea-areas are officially free of IHN (Finland and Sweden), except for another coastal compartment in the Åland Islands comprised by the parts of Eckerö and Hammarland municipalities that are contained within a circle of radius of 10 km, centred on WGS84 coordinates 10 km, centered on WGS84 coordinates Lat 60,207175390°, Lon 19,507907780 that was established in 2022. The two compartments are located 28 km from each other measuring the bird’s eye view and 33 km measuring the sea route.  (iii) the location of the establishments referred to in point (ii) and their distance from the dependent compartment;  The closest aquaculture establishment is located about 2,5 km from the border of the compartment. This establishment has been tested negative once a year.  (iv) production volume of the establishments referred to in point (ii) as well as their method of production and the source of their animals;  In 2022, 5 630 000 kg of fish was produced in Åland (5 420 455 kg of rainbow trout, 117 971 kg of whitefish and 91 233 kg of sea trout). Most of the fish is farmed in open net pens but there are also two land-based recirculating aquaculture system facilities in Åland. All fish farmed for human consumption are imported from outside the area (mainland Finland, USA, Estonia) as juveniles. Fish grown for stocking purposes in Åland are produced in the area.  (v) presence and abundance of wild aquatic animals from relevant listed species in the water system and their health status  (vi) details of whether the species referred- to in point (v) are sedentary or migratory;  (vii) possibility of the wild aquatic animals referred to in point (v) entering the compartment;  Wild fish move freely in the compartment. Anadromous Atlantic salmon cross the area during their migration. Some rainbow trout escapees may be found but wild rainbow trout does not exist in Åland. Wild fish (northern pike, pike perch and salmon) were tested for IHN during the years 2021-2023 in the compartment and they were all negative.  (viii) general biosecurity measures in the compartment;  Approved establishments are required to meet the biosecurity standards in the EU legislation. This is controlled on a regular basis. The application for approval must include a description of the health control system and biosecurity measurements of the company and each of its farms. All establishments in the compartment and elsewhere in Finland purchase fish from IHN free establishments.  (ix) general hydrological conditions on the water system;  The surrounding water system comprises the sea area with hundreds of small islands in the province of Åland that lies between the Gulf of Bothnia and The Gulf of Finland in the South-Western Finland. Water is brackish water with a salt content of circa 0.30-0.35 %. There are no physical barriers between this compartment and the sea, however all the surrounding areas are declared free of IHN except for the other coastal compartment in Eckerö, Åland that was established in 2022. |
| * details of any measures which were imposed by the competent authority to prevent the introduction of the relevant disease to the compartment. |  |
| * the assessment referred to in point (b) of Article 177 of Regulation (EU) 429/2016: |  |
| 1. Statement confirming that the relevant general criteria in accordance with point (a) of Article 66 of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 for zones, or with point (a) of Article 73(1) of that Regulation for aquatic compartments, are complied with. | It is confirmed that the relevant general criteria in accordance with point (a) of Article 73(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 are complied with.  IHN was first detected in Åland in the year of 2021 and an IHN eradication programme was launched. Establishments with outbreaks of IHN were emptied, sanitized with follow up control and kept empty for a period of >6 weeks with follow up control.  In 2022 a surveillance programme started with a plan of declaring the whole compartment free of IHN in two years. According to the programme, each establishment keeping susceptible species >4 months per year was inspected and sampled twice a year with a sample size of 75 fish and each establishment keeping susceptible species <4 months per year was inspected and sampled once per year with a sample size of 75 fish. |
| 1. When the grounds for recognition of disease-free status is based on the completion of an eradication programme, for each year of the programme, information must be supplied concerning: |  |
| * 1. the aquaculture establishments and where relevant, the sampling points in the wild in the zone/compartment: |  |
| * Number of approved aquaculture establishments in the programme; | Two companies with a total of 8 approved establishments with susceptible species, mainly rainbow trout. One establishment is primarily used as a secondary holding place in the winter and is not used every year. |
| * Number of registered aquaculture establishments in the programme (where relevant); |  |
| * Number of sampling points in wild populations (where relevant); | During the years 2021-2022 a total of 90 samples from wild fish (Pike, and Pike Perch), were caught in the compartment. All samples tested negative by virus isolation. Furthermore, 239 wild salmon passing Åland on their migration were tested with negative results. |
| * Maps showing approved and registered aquaculture establishments, and where relevant, sampling points in the wild; | En bild som visar text, diagram, karta, skärmbild  Automatiskt genererad beskrivning  Red dots: fish farming establishments  Green dots: net-cages where sea trout are accustomed before releasing in wild  Black boxes: slaughterhouses |
| * Number of aquaculture establishments, and where relevant, sampling points in the wild, out of the total number of aquaculture establishments and sampling points in the wild, which are not infected; | year 2021: 51/51 wild fish tested were free of IHN  year 2022: 10/10 establishments tested were free of IHN, 39/39 wild fish tested were free of IHN  year 2023: 10/10 establishments tested were free of IHN |
| * Number of aquaculture establishments, and where relevant, sampling points in the wild, out of the total number of aquaculture establishments and sampling points in the wild, with confirmed cases; | 0 |
| * Number of new aquaculture establishments, and where relevant, sampling points in the wild, out of the total number of aquaculture establishments and sampling points in the wild, with confirmed cases. | 0 |
| * 1. animal health visits and sampling which have been completed: |  |
| * Number of health visits per approved and where relevant, per registered aquaculture establishment; | two health visits per year in approved establishments keeping fish >4 months per year, one health visit per year in approved establishments keeping fish <4 months per year. |
| * Number of samplings per approved, and where relevant, per registered aquaculture establishment, or samplings in wild populations; | establishments with fish of susceptible species for >4 months per year have been sampled two (2) times yearly. Establishments with fish of susceptible species <4 months have been sampled one (1) time yearly. |
| * Number of animals sampled at each sampling event; | 75 |
| * Species sampled; | rainbow trout, salmon, sea trout |
| * Results from each laboratory examination (positive/ negative for the pathogen in question); | all negative |
| * Results from each clinical inspection; | no clinical signs |
| * Water temperature at the time of sampling. | under 14°C. |